

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A closure suitable for mounting onto a container, the container having an opening defined by an end portion of the container, said end portion having a free end and an outer surface, the closure including:

a top portion;

a skirt portion depending from the top portion; and

an annular sealing rib projecting downwardly from an underside of the top portion, the rib including:

a first portion which is contiguous with the top portion and has an inner surface, which inner surface lies radially inwardly of the skirt portion; and

at least a second, frusto-conical, portion contiguous with the first portion and separated from the top portion by the inner surface of the first portion, the second portion having an upperside and an underside and extending radially inwardly to a circular edge, the underside of the second portion having an annular protrusion formed thereon at a location spaced outwardly from the circular edge and extending downwardly away from the top portion of the closure;

wherein the inner surface of the first portion has an internal diameter relative to the external diameter of the end portion of the container to which the closure is to be attached such that during attachment of the closure with the end portion of the container, the sealing rib will be engaged by said end portion of the container so folding the second portion at least towards the inner surface of the first portion of the rib to form a seal between at least an outer surface of the end portion of the container and at least a part of the second portion of the sealing rib between the free end thereof and the annular protrusion; and

further wherein the spacing of the annular protrusion formed on the underside of the second portion from the circular edge thereof is such that during said attachment, the protrusion ~~engages the outer surface of the end portion of the container at a location more distal the free end thereof than said part of the second portion so resulting in additional sealing contact between the closure and the outer surface of the end portion of the container~~ engages the outer surface spaced from the container free end and the end of the second portion engages the container free end.

2. (Original) The closure of claim 1 wherein the annular protrusion comprises an annular ridge extending outwardly to a peak.

3. (Original) The closure of claim 2 wherein the ridge is substantially triangular in cross-section.

4. (Original) The closure of claim 3 wherein one surface of the ridge comprises an end portion engaging surface that acts to extend the area of the seal between the second portion and the container end portion on attachment of the closure to the container.

5. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the annular protrusion is positioned about midway between the first portion and the circular edge of the second portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the annular protrusion is positioned closer to the first position than the circular free edge of the second portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The closure of claim 1 wherein the annular protrusion has a resiliently flexible member extending outwardly from or adjacent ~~[[the]]~~ a peak of the annular ridge, the resiliently flexible member serving to extend the area of the seal between the second portion and the container end portion on attachment of the closure to the container.

8. (Original) The closure of claim 7 wherein the resiliently flexible member extends downwardly and inwardly from the peak of the annular protrusion prior to attachment of the closure to the container end portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 7 wherein the resiliently flexible member tapers in thickness as it extends away from the second portion of the sealing rib.

10. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein a screw thread is provided on an inside surface of the skirt portion that is adapted to engage with a corresponding thread on the outer surface of the end portion of the container.

11. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the rib comprises a thickening of the skirt portion in the region adjacent the skirt's connection to the top portion.

12. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the first portion of the sealing rib is formed radially inwardly of the skirt portion with an annular space therebetween.

13. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the first portion is substantially cylindrical.

14 & 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the closure is made from polyethylene.

17. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the closure is formed in one piece.

18. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the closure has a tamper evident band adapted to provide an indication of removal or attempted removal of the closure from a container.

19. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 18 wherein the tamper evident band extends from the skirt portion by connection through a plurality of frangible bridges.

20. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 18 wherein as the closure is removed from a container, the tamper evident band provides an indication of this removal either before or as the second portion of the sealing rib disengages with at least the outer surface of the end portion of the container.

21. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein an underside of the top portion of the closure has an engagement means comprising a continuous or segmented annular ridge radially inside of the sealing rib.

22. (Original) The closure of claim 21 wherein the upper side of the second portion of the rib has a complementary engagement means comprising a continuous or segmented annular ridge and wherein, on attachment of the closure with the end portion, the complementary engagement means are adapted to interlock thereby holding the sealing rib touching the underside of the top portion stationary and causing the second portion of the sealing rib to be disposed over a still greater area of the underside of the top portion as well as the outer surface of the end portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein at the line of meeting of the first and second portions of the sealing rib, a weakened zone or annular region of weakness is

provided to assist even deformation of the second portion relative to the first as the closure is attached to the end portion of the container.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) A container having an opening defined by an end portion of the container, the end portion being sealed by a closure according to claim 1.

26. The container of claim 25 wherein the container is used in an aseptic or hot fill process.

27 & 28 (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method of applying a closure as defined in claim 1 to an end portion of a container, the method comprising the step of turning the closure onto the end portion of the container until the closure seals the container.